

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, March, 2. 1706.

After having Debated the Christian and Compassionate part of dealing with Debtors, whose Disasters and Misfortunes, not their Knavery or Excesses, have brought them to Distress, for 'tis only of such I am speaking; I come now of Course to Examine a little, the Politick part of it.

And here I must Confess, there is something which shocks my Judgment, and I am at a loss to Reflect, what sort of a Spirit we are act'd by in *England*, that tho' we have so entire a Dependance upon Trade, that it is as it were the Life and Blood of the Nation, the Support of our Power, the raising of our Families, the Spring and Fountain of our Wealths; yet we should make and Prompt Laws which in their own Nature, are Destructive to the very Being and Nature of Trade.

All Men allow, that the Number of People, is both the Wealth and Advantage of a Nation.

The manner of Proceeding against Debtors in *England*, and the Lingring Barbarities of Commissions, as now Practis'd, are Evident Depopulations, or lessening the Numbers of our People, and this with one Unhappy Aggravation, that it breaks in upon our People, in the most Injurious Part, by Dispersing and Driving from us, the most useful of them, I mean, the Diligent Trader, and the Improving Artist — There are no sort of People, but what are useful one way or other, either to Consume the Growth of the Country, and help Employ others, or to Work and Improve the General Stock themselves; but there are some much more Useful to the Publick than others — The Idle Per-

Person, is an Unprofitable Servant, and very little Benefit to the Publick, the Horse is a more Useful Creature of the two by much, because he not only helps to Enrich by his Labour for his Master, but his very Teeth work for the Publick, by Consuming the Growth, and consequently both Employing Land and People——

These sort of Folks are the best to part with, and yet even these Drones are necessary Assistants to the Publick Good, as they Encrease the World, and may leave more useful People behind them; but to Drive away and Disperse the Industrious willing Families, of our Tradesmen and Manufacturers, by intolerable Severities, making no Distinction between the Guilty and the Miserable; no difference between the Deceiver and Deceived, the Fraudulent Bankrupt, and the poor Trepan'd Tradesman Ruin'd by the Fraud: This is such a Proceeding, as no Nations in the World are Guilty of but this; it is the

Foundation of Innumerable Frauds in its self, and the Original Cause, of the driving our People Abroad, to live in Foreign Countries, Plant and Encrease Strangers, Colonies, and Employ their Endeavours, both to the Peopling, Enriching, and Improving other Nations.

Nor do such flye to Foreign Countries only, with their selves and Families, but with the Effects also, and Estates of their Creditors; so that we not only lose our People, but our Wealth; and they that would Honestly surrender themselves and their Effects to their Creditors, if proper Laws were made to Encourage and relieve them, in such an Honest Design, are now by the Terror and Barbarity of these Customs Terrifi'd into *Knaves*, forc'd even against their Minds, to turn Cheats, to make up a Purse and be gone; of which more in our NEXT.

MISCELLANEA.

I Would fain perswade Mr. *Rehearsal*, to leave me room to Treat him like an Honest Man, or to make it tolerable to let him alone—But when he falls on Men with Forgeries of his own Brain, Partial Unfair Quotations, and manifest perverting the Sence of Words, Representing half a Man says, without the other, observing no Connexion of Parts, and forming False Assertions from such Dishonest Methods, he gives himself a Character, too Vile to be put into Words, and acts neither like a Gentleman, a Scholar, or an Honest Man.

In his *Rehearsal*, N°. 87. he tells the World; De-Foe, renews his Assaults against the Church of England, to render her Vile all over the World, and to prove this, he

Quotes a Fragment of a Paragraph out of the *Hymn to Peace*, as follows,

————— *A New Proverbial Jest,*
To be as Wicked as an English Priest.

I wonder this Man does not Blush for his Readers, since they must needs Blush for him, in this very Case, these Words being part of a Paragraph, in which I say, as is Quoted at large in the last *Review*, that I forbear Expoting the Clergy, with Respect to the Nation in General.

Lest it become a New Proverbial Jest,
To be as Wicked as an English Priest.

This is the way this Gentleman Treats Man-

Mankind, this the way of his Party, and this the way, his Cause drives him to the Necessity of Treating Mankind ; I have indeed the Misfortune, to Embark in a Cause that hangs a-Stern, and dares not come up to a fair Argument, and he sticks not, as need requires, to assist it with Forgeries, Partial Quotations, Improbable Conjectures, Innumerable Insolencies in his Language and Character, the constant Brand of an Unfair Adversary : Thus he tells us, all the Patriarchs were Kings, because *David* that was a King, was call'd a Patriarch, and yet *Jacob's* 12 Sons, were also call'd Patriarchs, who we know never came to be Kings : Thus he tells us, *Moderation* tickl'd her self to Death, and in the same Paragraph, tells us, she Guzzl'd her self and hurt.

By these Methods, he may make Blasphemy of the Scripture, Treason of the Law, and turn the best intended Speeches in the World, to serve the worst purposes he can suggest ; till therefore he thinks fit to change this Method, I must tell him he is not worth any Man's Regard, and 'tis sufficient to Treat him with Silence, and not fear such Absurdities can Influence the Nation, or Answer the Mischievous Desigus they are Calculated for.

As to the *Review*, and its falling upon the Church, the Case is short, and the state of it Clear ; I never said any thing in it, Derogating from, or Injurious to the Church of *England*, as such ; the Worthy and Reverend Clergy, from the Highest to the Lowest, who rightly pursue the Interest of the Church, the Liberty of their Country, and their Duty to the Queen, who Preach Good Living to their People, and Praise it themselves ; they have, and ever had the Cordial Esteem, and Veneration of the Author of this Paper ; I Honour their Persons, Reverence their Function, and scorn to offer the least Shadow of Indignity, either to them or their Office ; nor can this Infamous Detrafter, and Fomentor of Strife, prove the least Circumstance of any thing like this upon me.

As to the Parallels I have drawn, be-

tween Dry and Wet Martyrdom, the Comparisons between Church and Dissenting Loyalty, and between the Transactions of 41 and 88, with a Defence of Revolution Principles ; I shall at large Explain my self very speedily in another place, and to that I Refer.

But as to the Characters I have given, in some Terrible and Melancholy Examples of Crime in the Church, while he calls these falling upon the Church ; I cannot but tell him, should I Publish the Matters of Fact, which I am Master of, with Respect to the High-Flying Gentlemen of the Clergy ; should I give a Faithful Account, of the most Infamous and Scandalous Behaviour, the Notorious Lives, the Beastly Excesses, and the Furious Treatment of their Brethren, the Dissenters, which on a small search, I have been acquainted with ; the Inferiour Clergy of his Party would appear the most Wretched, Provoking, Abominable Crew ; that ever God suffer'd to Live Unpunish'd, since he Destroy'd *Sodom* and *Gomorrab* by Fire from Heaven ; and had he himself any Regard to the Church of *England*, or to these People, who are his Friends, he would not push me upon the Unhappy Necessity of Disclosing these things, to justify my own Moderation ; I tell you, Mr. *Lesley*, you would Blush your self, or Evidence to the World you were *pist* it, should you Read some Minutes, I could show you, of the most Abominable Crimes of the Professors of High Flying Principles, among the Men of the Gown, whom you could not Defend, nor cannot open your Mouth to justify ; and Pray, Sir, do not drive me upon the Discovery : I gave you one lately, why do you not Reply to it, and Defend it ? I'll bestow another upon you, as soon as that is Clear'd up, and go no farther than your Dean *Oxfordians*, of which, one of your Friends and Champions shall be Voucher.

Dr. C ———, Head or Principal of a certain College, with some other Heads of the University in the Company, and Meeting at New College, to take a Bottle,